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IN THE CLAIMS

Technology Center 2500

Please cancel Claims 24-27 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 14, 18, 20-23, 28 and 30-32 as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience. In keeping with the changes to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 to implement the Patent Business Goals, the claims that are not presently being amended will not have a parenthetical expression following the claim number.

1. An image input device for picking up images of one or more subjects by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an image of a subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction switch adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit;

a first detection unit adapted to detect an angle of the image pickup direction and for determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

a storage unit adapted to store an image signal of the one or more subjects only when the predetermined angle is detected by said first detection unit.

2. An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second detection unit adapted to determine whether the image pickup direction is fixed,

wherein said storage unit is structured to store said image signal when the image pickup direction is determined, by said second detection unit, to be fixed.

3. An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a driving unit adapted to change the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit,

wherein said storage unit stores the image signal when a signal for driving said driving unit is applied.

4. An image input device according to claim 1, wherein said storage unit stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup unit is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

5. An image input device according to claim 4, further comprising:

a control unit adapted to control said storage unit to output the stored image signal when said image pickup unit is shifted from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

6. An image input device according to claim 1, wherein said storage unit has at least more than two areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

a control unit that controls switching between said at least more than two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the angle detected by said first detection unit.

7. An image input device for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

- a mount table for laying a subject thereon;
- an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an image of said subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

- an image pickup direction switching unit adapted to switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit between a direction for picking up an image of said subject laid on said mount table and another direction;

- a detection unit adapted to detect the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit; and

- a storage unit adapted to store the image signal output from said image pickup unit only when the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit detected by said

detecting unit is the direction for picking up said subject on said mount table.

8. An image input device according to claim 7, further comprising a control unit that allows the image signal stored in said storage unit to be output when the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit is set at a direction for picking up an image of a subject other than said subject laid on said mount table.

9. An image input device according to claim 7, wherein said storage unit has more than two storage areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

a switch for storing, in said storage unit, the image signal output from said image pickup unit; and

an assigning unit adapted to assign a number of the image signal stored by operation of said switch.

10. An image input method for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to

picked-up images of the subjects, said image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting an angle of the image pickup direction and determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

storing the image signals only when the detected angle is equal to the predetermined angle.

11. An image input method according to claim 10, wherein said image signals are stored when the image pickup direction is switched from a direction to pick up an image of a document to a direction to pick up an image of a person.

12. An image input method according to claim 11, further comprising a controlling step of controlling the stored image signals to be output when the detected angle of the image pickup direction is shifted from an angle corresponding to said document image pickup direction to an angle corresponding to said person image pickup direction.

13. An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising an output unit adapted to output the image

signal stored by said storage unit when an angle which is not equal to said predetermined angle is detected by said first detection unit.

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14. (Amended) An image input device for picking up images of one subject or more by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an image of a subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

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a first detection unit adapted to detect an angle of the image pickup direction;

a storage unit adapted to store the image signal of one subject or more picked up by said image pickup unit in accordance with a result that a predetermined angle is detected by said first detection unit; and

an inhibiting unit adapted to inhibit the image signal of one subject or more picked up by said image pick up unit from being stored when an angle detected by said

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first detection unit is different from said predetermined angle.

15. An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a second detection unit adapted to determine whether the image pickup direction is fixed, wherein said storage unit is structured to store said image signal when the image pickup direction is determined, by said second detection unit, to be fixed.

16. An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a driving unit adapted to change the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit, wherein said storage unit stores the image signal when a driving unit signal is applied.

17. An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage unit stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup direction of said

image pickup unit is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

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18. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 17, further comprising a control unit adapted to control output of the image signal stored by said storage unit wherein said control unit controls said storage unit to output the stored image signal when said image pickup unit is shifted from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

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19. An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage unit has at least more than two areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

a memory control unit adapted to switch between said at least more than two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the angle detected by said first detection unit.

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20. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising a control unit adapted to control output of the image signal stored by said storage unit wherein said control unit outputs an image signal stored by said storage unit repeatedly.

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21. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising a control unit adapted to control output of the image signal stored by said storage unit wherein said control unit outputs an image signal stored by said storage unit selectively.

22. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising a control unit adapted to control output of the image signal stored by said storage unit wherein said control unit controls so as to output the image signal stored by the storage unit when said predetermined angle is not detected by said detecting unit.

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23. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon;

an image pickup unit adapted to pick up an ⁴
image of said subject and for outputting an image signal
corresponding to the picked-up image;

an image pickup direction switch adapted to
switch the image pickup direction of said image pickup unit
between a direction for picking up an image of said subject
laid on said mount table and another direction;

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a detection unit adapted to detect the image
pickup direction of said image pickup unit; and

a storage unit adapted to store the image
signal output from said image pickup unit when the image
pickup direction of said image pickup unit detected by said
detecting unit is the direction for picking up said subject
on said mount table; and

a control unit adapted to control, at an
arbitrary timing, output of the image signal stored by said
storage unit.

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28. (Amended) An image input method for picking
up an image of a subject by switching an image pickup
direction and outputting image signals corresponding to

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picked-up images of the subjects, the image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting an angle of the image pickup direction; and
inhibiting the picked-up image of the subject from being stored when a detected angle is different from said predetermined angle.

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30. (Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, wherein the stored image signals are controlled to be output when the detected angle of the image pickup direction is shifted from an angle corresponding to a document image pickup direction to a person image pickup direction.

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cont.
31. (Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of outputting an image signal stored in said storing step repeatedly.

32. (Amended) An image input method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of outputting an image signal stored in said storing step selectively.

Please add new claims 33-38 as follows.

33. An image input device for picking up an image of an object by changing an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

a detection unit adapted to detect an angle of the image pickup direction; and

a control unit adapted to change a white balance mode in accordance with a result of said detection unit.

34. An image input device according to claim 33, wherein said control unit controls the white balance mode that a predetermined white balance data is set when the angle of the image pickup direction is detected a predetermined angle by said detection unit.

35. An image input device according to claim 33, wherein said control unit controls auto white balance mode in accordance with a result of said detection unit.

36. An image input method for picking up an image of an object by changing an image pickup direction, the image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting an angle of the image pickup direction; and

changing a white balance mode in accordance with a result of said detection unit.

37. A method according to claim 36, wherein said controlling step controls a white balance mode that a predetermined white balance data is set when the angle of the image pickup direction is a predetermined angle.

38. A method according to claim 36, wherein said controlling step controls auto white balance mode in accordance with a result of said detection step.

REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 28 and 30-38 are now presented for examination. Claims 24-27 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. This amendment is neither intended nor believed to narrow the scope of the